

Capital Symphony Ball Draws Top Society

By BETTY BEALE

Capital society cavorted before Nubian statues last evening and aided by out-of-towners, raised over \$50,000 for the National Symphony Orchestra.

With some of Washington's customary big bidders absent, it was visitors from New York and Pittsburgh who kept the Chinese auction going until it had brought \$40,000 on the 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Seville.

The sleek red car donated by Floyd Akers went to New York's Edmund Monell of the Monell Metals family, when he jumped the bid from \$33,000 to \$40,000.

Palm Beach lawyer Jack Salisbury, who came to Washington to act as auctioneer, decided at \$33,000 that the auction was beginning to drag its feet. He therefore offered all remaining prizes to the bidder who would raise it \$7,000.

Oddly enough, two men at table 41—Ambassador Wiley Buchanan, and "Bunny" Monell—both tried to get their bids in, but it was the latter who spoke first. In addition to the car, he won for his wife, the former "Feets" Selden of Washington, a big pin studded with rubies donated by Harry Winston, a coat, perfume, dolls and other gifts.

As usual the cream of the Capital's carriage trade turned out for the \$25 a clip full dress affair—the women in their finest jewels and long evening gowns, the men elegant in white tie and tails.

Fashionable Women

There was Count Douglas of the Swedish Embassy wearing full decorations, the Countess in pale blue brocade and diamond tiara. . . . Mrs. Clarence Mackay of New York accenting her black gown with her 2 by 3 inch emerald on a diamond and emerald necklace. . . . The Baroness Silvercruys in a black velvet gown dramatically draped with white and topped by a white fox capelet. . . . Elizabeth Arden in a pink dress with a floor-length stole, elaborately embroidered with gold. . . . Lady Jane Nelson in a stunning white gown splashed with black. . . . German Ambassador Krekeler's wife in a chiffon dress that shaded from pink to deep red. . . . Mrs. Paul McNutt in emerald green and violet taffeta. . . . Oatsey Leiter in emerald green satin. . . .

The evening began at 7:30 with cocktails in the Continental Room of the Sheraton Park. At 8:30 trumpets heralded the dinner hour and the bejeweled and be-satined company proceeded down the red carpeted stairs to the main ballroom.

the room was the stand for Sidney's full-size orchestra and just in front of it was the long table laden with prizes.

Before dinner was over, Clark Clifford as master of ceremonies welcomed the assemblage, paid special tribute to Carson Frailey, president of the National Symphony Orchestra Association; Dr. Howard Mitchell, conductor, and Mrs. Merriweather Post, honorary chairman of the ball and the symphony's biggest supporter. Mrs. Post had to be in Los Angeles this week, so missed the party last night.

She donated the four big silver frames that were awarded the first and second place winners in the waltz contest judged by the famous dance team, Sally and Tony de Marco. First prize went to Mrs. William T. Mann twirling with Jack Logan; second prize to Tommajean Akers and Jack McNulty.

The full symphony orchestra contributed its services to play one waltz number during the evening. Shepherding the whole proceedings, incidentally, was Mrs. Philip Strong, chairman.

The main business of the ball—the Chinese auction—got under way after everyone had had a chance to dance for awhile. The auction was divided into two parts to break the tedium, but frankly for those sitting at tables with constant bidders, there was no tedium. The next headiest thing to throwing away thousands is to watch someone else do it.

Prominent Guests

Seated at some of the 73 tables in the room were Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Garrison Norton with the Robert Amorys, Russell Trues, Robert Spaldings and Atrous von Schraders.

The Netherlands Ambassador and Mme. van Roijen, the Austrian Ambassador and Mrs. Gruber, Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Carpenter and Justice and Mrs. Burton were at the Director of the Budget and Mrs. Percival Brundages' table.

The Edward Foleys sat with the Jim Barneses, Eugene Carusis and Jack Newbolds.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hamilton, the Andrew Sauls, the Bill Rapleys and the Philip Israels sat with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Kauffmann.

And there were the Orme Wilsons, who were frequent bidders, Lord and Lady Lurcourt, Norwegian Ambassador and Mme. Morgenstjerne, Polly and Kermit Roosevelt, the Arthur Hills, the Robert Guggenheims, the Neill Phillips, the Struve Hensels, Capt. and Mrs. Charles Maddox, the Ed-

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